



JUDY RITTER
MAYOR

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 4 (Gonzalez) Communications: California Advanced Services Fund.**
AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry) Communications: California Advanced Services Fund: Deaf and Disabled
Telecommunications Program: Surcharges. Request for SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Vista requests your signature on both SB 4 (Gonzalez) and AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry), contingent legislation that would prioritize the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved communities throughout California through the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF).

Specifically, AB 14 authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) to continue imposing an existing surcharge through December 31, 2032. By offering a stable source of funding until 2032, this bill will enable California to continue to work towards its broadband infrastructure deployment goals while providing additional funding to support broadband adoption. SB 4 works in tandem with this bill by authorizing the CPUC to increase the annual surcharge collection cap from \$66 million to \$150 million.

The surcharges collected under AB 14 could be used to fund the other CASF subaccounts that were not funded with the \$2 billion appropriation under SB 156, such as the adoption and public housing subaccounts. The surcharge could also go towards funding the 37 outstanding CASF Infrastructure grant applications that have been pending since May 2020, but were never acted on, in part, because of a lack of available funding.

In addition to these essential funding opportunities, this broadband package would also expand the definition of "unserved." Expanding this definition increases eligibility for CASF grants, which are currently reserved for areas with dial-up speeds or lower, leaving out many communities where Californian's struggle to stay connected with slightly faster but still obsolete speeds.

SB 4 and AB 14 will improve Vistans' connectivity to school, work, healthcare, and other community resources. This broadband package, coupled with the state's historic \$6 billion investment through SB 156, prioritizes the needs of California's unserved and underserved communities while providing local governments the flexibility to do more deployment than ever before.

For these reasons, the City of Vista requests your signature on AB 14 and SB 4.

Sincerely,

Judy Ritter
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, senator.gonzalez@senate.ca.gov
The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Assembly Member, assemblymember.aguiar-curry@assembly.ca.gov
Office of Senator Patricia Bates, Cynthia.Bryant@sen.ca.gov
Office of Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath, Celia.Mata@asm.ca.gov
Catherine Hill, League of California Cities, Chill@cacities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org